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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION I		
10/521,205	01/12/2005	Kyoichi Sasaki	WATAB1.002APC	9027	
20995	7590 10/05/2006	•	EXAMINER		
KNOBBE N	MARTENS OLSON & BE	TRAN, HOANG Q			
2040 MAIN FOURTEEN		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBI			
IRVINE, CA 92614			2874		
			DATE MAILED: 10/05/2000	6	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Display within the surface of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE § MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. □ Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.35(b), In no event, however, may a teryly be simely field to 19 the provision of 17 CFR 1.35(b), In no event, however, may a teryly be simely field the provision of the major beautiful prior with application to the major beautiful prior with application for reply will, by stanker, cause the application to become ABANDONED (95 U.S.C. § 113) for a serior patient term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.70(b). **Status** 1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filed on □ 20 □ This action is FINAL. 20 □ This action is non-final. 3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. **Disposition of Claims** 4) ☑ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are vithdrawn from consideration. 5□ □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8pplication Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☑ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2005 is/are: ali is accepted or bi □ objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☑ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2005 is/are: ali is accepted or bi □ objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☑ The darwing(s) filed on 12 January 2005 is/are: ali is accepted or bi □ objected to by the Examiner. 10) □ The cath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 11□ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in A				Application No.		Applicant(s)				
Hoang Tran 2374	Office Action Summary									
— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Educations of time may be evaluate under the provision of 37 CF1 1/30(i). In no event, nower, may aney by the limby fired of this communication of 37 CF1 1/30(i). In no event, nower, may aney by the limby fired of this communication of 37 CF1 1/30(i). If NO pend for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory princed will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTH's from the malling date of this communication. Feature to reply within he set or recented pend for frey will, by statuke, cause the application become ABANDONED(5 SI U.S. C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than these morths after the malling date of this communication, even it timely filed, may reduce any seemed patient in an algorithm. Set 37 CFR 1,76(6). Status 1) Responsive to communication (s) filed on			H	Examiner		Art Unit				
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1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)										
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	2) Notice o	f Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (F	PTO-948)	· _ P	Paper No(s)/Mail Da	ate				
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/28/2005. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application 6) Other:				· <u></u>		atent Application				

Application/Control Number: 10/521,205

Art Unit: 2874

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US 5,838,856).

In terms of claims 1-4, 8-10, Lee discloses an optical fiber connection structure wherein optical fibers (1), shown in Fig. 4, are connected by means of a component for connecting optical fibers comprising two plugs (119), into which at least one optical fiber has been inserted respectively for aligning said optical fibers and connecting them, and an adapter (150) for fixing said plugs, which comprises that the plugs are fixed to the adapter by attaching each plug into which the optical fiber has been inserted to the adapter in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the optical fiber. The plug or adapter is equipped with a latch member (130) and the other has a latch engaging section (119 engages 134). The plug or adapter has a guide(s) (117) for alignment and the other is equipped with a member for alignment with engages with said guide. The plugs and adapter have a through-hole(s) for alignment (153).

In terms of claims 5-7, the plug is equipped with one or plural ferrules (117), each ferrule of said plug is equipped with a ferrule aligning member capable of sliding in a

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direction of the center axis of the optical fiber and the ends of ferrules brought face to face with each other are located inside said ferrule aligning member (151) as a result of sliding said ferrule aligning member in a direction of the center axis of the optical fibers.

The method steps of claims 11-16 are disclosed by Lee in the explanation of the separate components functioning together. The resulting structure is the assembly of all the various components aligning as one module. The relevant steps can be found in Figure 1-4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-5049. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Hoang Tran AU 2874

September 26, 2006

SUNG PAK PRIMARY EXAMINER